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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

pro bono humani generis

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Joshua Lederberg
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

July 26, 1994

Honorable Federico Mayor, Director-General
UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75015 Paris, France

Dear Dr. Mayor:

In late 1993 you asked for advice about how emerging communications technologies could be used to improve access to scientific resources for all scientists, especially those in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Africa. You also asked me to consider whether a UN or UNESCO-owned broadcast channel or communications satellite would be valuable.

I have consulted with colleagues who have brought a wide range of knowledge to this question. UNESCO and other institutions also provided financial support for these discussions and an initial meeting on June 8-10, 1994 at Rockefeller University.

This interim Report presents our initial recommendations: it reflects our discussions both of the broader issues you raised on behalf of the global scientific community and of the unique comparative advantage of UNESCO.

Our core recommendation is that unification with the evolving global Internet be the centerpiece of future policy in scientific communications.

I would be most grateful to you for conveying your reactions to these recommendations, and I hope you can look forward to enabling the release of this report under whatever aegis you believe appropriate. I know my colleague members of the workshop would be eager to contribute their own time and energy to helping achieve the implementation of our report, including assistance in seeking necessary funding support.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg